

Louisiana
Citizens for a
Sound Economy
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Baton Rouge, LA 70898

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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November 18, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

CC DKH 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

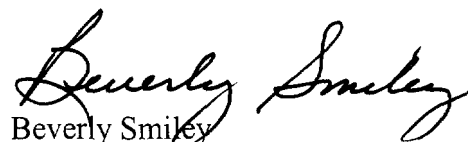
BellSouth has now applied to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for approval to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. On behalf of the 6,000 members of Louisiana Citizens for a Sound Economy (Louisiana CSE) I am writing to ask your speedy approval of its request so that Louisiana consumers can reap the benefits of being among the first states with increased competition in long-distance telecommunications services. I also request that this letter of support be included in the official record of the BellSouth filing. (FCC Docket #97-231)

After an exhaustive review of BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in our state, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) declared allowing it to enter into the long-distance market to be in the public interest and endorsed BellSouth's request. Louisiana CSE is asking that you accept the LPSC's decision and move without delay to approve BellSouth's application. Louisiana consumers are ready to benefit from true competition as was intended by Congress when it passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market will increase competition, resulting in lower prices and more choices for Louisiana consumers. In addition, competition will spur new technology offering new and innovative products and services.

Moreover, as competitors build networks and invest in Louisiana's market, new jobs will be created and this development will spur further economic growth in the state. Because businesses will have a wider range of telecommunications services available under full competition, as well as more affordable rates, Louisiana would have an advantage in attracting new business development to the state.

Sincerely,



Beverly Smiley
Director

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CC: The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth
FCC Commissioner

The Honorable Michael Powell
FCC Commissioner

The Honorable Gloria Tristani
FCC Commissioner

The Honorable Susan Ness
FCC Commissioner



Town of Zwolle

P.O. BOX 546
ZWOLLE, LOUISIANA 71486
(318) 645-6141

Nov 25 5 15 PM '97

P. M. WOODS
Mayor
Public Works

November 21, 1997

ALLEN RIVERS
Mayor Pro-Tempore

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC DK 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

CHARLES MILLER
Secretary

You have recently received a request from BellSouth to enter the long distance service market in Louisiana. I would like my letter of support for BellSouth's request to become a part of the record of the BellSouth filing.

MARTHA HENDERSON
Treasurer

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 should have resulted in true competition for all communications services and this has not happened.

CLOTEAL POLK
Streets & Sidewalks

Our local rural market for Zwolle citizens has been dealing with multiple providers that offer limited services, apparently due to the small profit margins that would be generated from serving many small businesses scattered in rural areas. When BellSouth is allowed to enter the long distance market these existing services will be forced to compete for local service and our citizens will have lower costs, access to more services and the ability to select one provider and businesses will also have these advantages.

CAROLYN CUTRIGHT
Health & Sanitation

New communication providers will likely build their own networks and invest in our state which will boost our economy. As a result, new businesses and industries will be enticed to relocate to Louisiana creating more than 7,500 jobs for our citizens.

MARVIN FRAZIER
Chief of Police

I encourage you to follow the lead of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market which is important to the growth of Zwolle and to all of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

P.M. Woods

P. M. Woods,
Mayor

PMW:w